



LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

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COVER Please credit RAI/LNS

Recently several underground papers have uncovered culture vultures in their communities. Seattle's Helix recently ran a series of articles exposing a local rock entrepreneur. You might want to use this cartoon to accompany similar articles.

LNS is in a really serious financial crisis no kidding. If you can spare ANY money at all, or know anyone who can, please send it to us. Love and struggle LNS. U.S. especially if you owe us back bills.

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WHEN ALL THE COPS ARE CRIMINALS.
CORONER'S JURY FINDS HAMPTON KILLING JUSTIFIABLE"

By LIBERATION News Service

"The coroner's jury's verdict speaks for itself, it is recognition -- by an independent, objective agency -- of the truthfulness of our police officers' account of the events of Dec. 4."

-- State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan

"...a well-rehearsed theatrical performance designed to justify excessive police conduct in killing and maiming members of the Black Panther Party."

-- James D. Montgomery, lawyer for the Illinois chapter Black Panther Party

"We got a bad deal. That Gerber guy did everything except pull the trigger."

-- Mrs. Iberia Hampton, mother of slain leader Fred Hampton

CHICAGO (LNS) -- Smug. Bland. Blind. The special Coroner's Jury convened to investigate the killing of Illinois Black Panther leader Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, another Panther, by police gunfire came out with a verdict on January 21, after five hours of deliberation.

"Certain city of Chicago policemen... in execution of a search warrant... did then and there use firearms which they reasonably believed to be necessary to prevent death or grave bodily harm..."

It is almost impossible to avoid feelings of indignation, shock, pure rage. You knew that this was coming from the day the jury was first called. But the case was too clear. From the time of the killing, the attitude of the establishment press to the police account ranged from skepticism to open sarcasm. The jurors would have to see the holes in the official version. They would have to note what thousands of people had observed - that there were no signs of any bullets fired in the direction of the doors through which the police had entered Hampton's apartment, clusters of bullet holes around the places where the Panthers had lain, and stood, and two of them had died. They would have to...

They sat there -- six 'blue-ribbon' investigators. They sat there for 12 days and heard 14 police officers and assorted state 'experts' shuffle, stack and deal a marked deck of lies and contradictions

These blue ribbon men. This independent, objective agency

Martin S. Gerber, 62-year-old bankruptcy attorney presiding. If you saw the man on the street, if you overheard him talking on the subway, you would probably laugh. He wears suits of the same cut as those worn by Richard J. Daley. He greets his sudden prominence with a ponderous display of colloquialism. He calls for lunch hour by saying, "I think this would be a propitious moment for all of us to go out and put on the feedbag." He finds murders justifiable. "...everything except pull the trigger."

Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were killed during the pre-dawn hours of December 4.

Sgt. Daniel Groth is the man who led the raid on that apartment at 2337 West Monroe where Hampton and Clark were killed. In five days of testimony at the inquest, Groth revealed himself as either a man with no memory whatsoever or a pathetically bad liar.

On December 10th, Groth told the press: "We didn't take tear gas because of the specific nature of our mission and the fact that we'd have the element of surprise on our side. Under the law we had to enter that flat and serve the warrant for a search. We couldn't just lob tear gas in there and charge."

On January 8th, he had two different reasons for not using teargas:

Gerber: Did you think of using teargas?

Groth: No, sir.

Gerber: Why not?

Groth: Didn't see any need for it, sir.

And a few minutes later.

Gerber: Why didn't you take teargas to subdue resistance?

Groth: There was no teargas available to us at that time.

Groth also testified on January 8th that the first shot fired in the raid was fired by Brenda Harris, an occupant of the apartment. Groth said that this shot was fired simultaneous to his entering the apartment and it "lit up her face." At that point he fired two shots in her direction, he said

By January 12th, Groth had changed his mind. At a visit to the apartment 13 days after the raid, Groth said on the witness stand that "we discussed who we thought had fired the first shot...it was my original contention that Brenda Harris had...I now feel that Mark Clark fired the first shot...through the door, and the shot lodged in the hallway."

This was Groth's most interesting and revealing change in testimony. The day after the raid, he was very definite that it was "a girl (presumably Brenda Harris) on a bed holding a shotgun" who initiated a "hail of gunfire" that met policemen as they came through the door and erupted into a "raging gunbattle" (in which, by Groth's most recent testimony, the occupants of the apartment fired a total of five shots without managing to hit anyone).

The problems with the new account of things are numerous. The alleged shot which allegedly lodged in the hallway managed to do so without leaving any traces in the hallway itself. "Expert" in residence John M. Sadunas, a firearms examiner for the police department, testified that the police had not found the slugs or pellets from any of the five shots the Panthers are supposed to have fired.

But the advantages of the new story are also obvious. Mark Clark is dead; and dead men tell no tales.

Groth's further testimony bristles with marks of inconsistency, incompetence and outright stupidity. According to Groth, none of the guns confiscated from the apartment were ever checked for fingerprints. At one point in his testimony, Gerber asked Groth a complex question to which he replied, "No." Gerber, not understanding which part of his question was being answered, asked, "No what?" Groth pondered for a moment, then replied, "No, SIR!"

Like Gerber, Groth is a man who could be humorous -- except for the leading role he played in the attack. At Fred Hampton's funeral, SCLC leader Ralph Abernathy declared that it was an attack in which "The black community is the target, and the Black Panther Party is the bullseye." This state-

ment was substantiated during the testimony of a black plainclothesman who stood outside during the raid. Lynwood Harris said that he was afraid of being mistaken for a "citizen" by the other police called to the building.

But the faith of our blue-ribbon citizens is not shaken. They are wise men, perceptive men. Two lawyers, two doctors, a social science professor, and a retired railroad car porter. They can render truth out of falsehood and ignore the fact that no witnesses testified on behalf of the Panthers because they have to preserve their case for the County Grand Jury which is contemplating attempted murder indictments against the seven survivors of the raid.

"Rotten people, the whole bunch is rotten people," says Iberia Hampton. And she is right, as everyone should have known long before she said it. "They're no good." And it's true. They were well chosen. Despite a law requiring that all members of a coroner's jury come from the vicinity of the place of death, the government was taking no chances. None of these men come from the community to which Fred Hampton and his fellow Panthers had been providing free breakfasts for children, free clothing, free medical care. They had not been infected by any experience of the Panthers' practice, and it did not strike them as strange that the Panthers engage in wild gunfights armed either with blanks or disappearing bullets.

"If a pig breaks into my house," said Chaka Wells, Black Panther Deputy Minister of Information on a tape played at the inquest, "I'm gonna treat him like a criminal."

Mark Clark and Fred Hampton never got the chance. But the police did get a chance to prove that they fully deserved such treatment.

And their blue ribbon friends. The Gerbers. Now they have had the chance to dispel any remaining illusions that there can be justice for any Black Panther or any black person fighting for liberation in this country.

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WINTER AMONG THE MINERS

LIBERATION News Service

*In the town of Spring Hill, Nova Scotia
Down in the heart of the Cumberland Mines
There's blood on the coal and the miners lie
On the roads that never saw sun nor sky
Roads that never saw sun nor sky*

*Eight days passed and some were rescued
Leaving the dead to lie alone
All their lives they dug their graves
Two miles of earth for their marking stone
Two miles of earth for their marking stone*

--a song of the Spring Hill mining disaster

CLARKSVILLE, Pa. (LNS) -- Sometime over the New Year holiday, a man or group of men approached the Pennsylvania home of United Mine Workers leader Joseph Yablonski, cut the telephone wires, and shot and killed Yablonski, his wife and his daughter. Several days later, their bodies were found in their bedrooms.

Yablonski recently lost a bitter election to entrenched UMW president Tony Boyle. It was the United Mine Workers' closest election in decades. Boyle, the heir of John L. Lewis (the "titan" of American labor), won by a vote of 81,000 to 45,000. Yablonski charged ballot stuffing and, in fact, the election, like its predecessor in 1964, was ringed with apparent fraud. The union secretary-treasurer, John Owens, under questioning in Federal Court, disclosed that about 75,000 "extra" ballots had been printed "in case some got lost in the mail." The union membership is only 150,000.

More importantly, Boyle's real strength came from old Lewis diehards, including the bulk of the union's retirees, who despite Boyle's record wouldn't turn on the handpicked man of John L. Lewis. In districts with light concentrations of retired miners (in the working districts, that is) Tony Boyle did not do so well, and 45,000 miners went on record as fed up with the Boyle machine.

Clearly things were happening in the UMW. In the span of a few short years, dissent in the union has grown from a handful to perhaps a majority of working miners. In the wake of the assassination of Yablonski, a wildcat strike caught

hold in West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Kentucky, and by the end of a week, 20,000 miners stopped work. There was anger everywhere. One group of miners passed a resolution calling for a nation-wide strike until their union leadership, including Mr. Boyle, took a lie detector test about the killing

Boyle inherited his shaky kingdom from John L. Lewis, a man whose iron determination in union struggles made him a hero of sorts. But Lewis's record is inconsistent. After World War II, John L. led many militant strikes demanding the all-out mechanization of the mines. For many miners, this meant a better place to work. But that's not the whole truth. Another result of this policy was that between 1947 and 1964 the UMW lost over 380,000 members. The union retained as members only those who worked in mines that could afford to automate. The miners who worked in the remaining non-automated mines were dropped from the union.

Not all those abandoned by the union were thrown out of work. More than 100,000 miners continued to work in small mines or found work "strip mining" in mines that had been shut down because their coal veins were near exhaustion. The union policy enabled these mines to re-open by allowing their operators to pay the former UMW members about \$14 a day, half the union rate. Many miners still work these mines, spending their lives on their hands and knees with headroom that is often as little as 36 inches. The work conditions of these miners are like a 19th century horror show, and yet, in 1965, these mines accounted for 30% of America's total coal production.

Naturally enough, competition from these mines has forced the owners of large, mechanized mines to impose a speedup on their employees, resulting in higher accident rates in an industry that has always been dangerous. In the first eight months of 1969, for example, at least 158 miners died of injuries suffered on the job. Another 78 miners were killed in Nov. 1968 in an explosion at Shaft No. 9 in Mannington, W. Va.

Disastrous cave-ins and explosions are only the most visible hazards to a miner's life. Black lung disease -- the corrosive effect of breathing years' of sooty air -- kills hundreds of miners every year and leaves thousands of others barely able to breathe.

Outrage over the excessive coal dust which made operation of the mines cheaper for their owners was the spark that ignited the miners' rebellion.

Ask an unemployed miner, "Why did you leave work? Did the vein run out?" and the answer will often be, "No. My lungs ran out."

"It's dirty now," another will say. "It's really dirty. It's just terrible."

The Black Lung Movement grew to the point where just a year ago, hundreds of miners jammed the state legislature in West Virginia wearing the hard hat that is the symbol of their trade and bearing a black coffin, while the legislators hemmed and hawed over proposed legislation to do something about the hazardous conditions that cause black lung. The miners knew the union wasn't with them. Several months ago, thousands of miners marched through the streets of Charleston, W. Va., in a demonstration against black lung, at one point passing and quite pointedly spurning the union headquarters.

Yablonski -- the man who is now dead -- was the exception to the rule. "Jock" Yablonski was the first major union official to join the rank and file dissenters when the miners in the Black Lung Movement began pushing for respiratory damage compensation legislation in Pennsylvania. As district director for the UMW in Pennsylvania, Yablonski chose the side of the miners and led the first successful fight there for a halfway adequate workmen's compensation law. Thus, when he decided to challenge Tony Boyle for the UMW presidency, Yablonski received the complete support of UMW rebels, whose ranks had grown astronomically since the last election. That growth provoked Boyle supporters to wage a vicious campaign full of threats and innuendos, and marked by incidents of violence.

Yablonski became far more than just a lone radical to be tolerated by the union leadership. He became a threat to the entire UMW as it now stands and a threat to the sweetheart pacts with the mine owners.

The UMW upsurge is the most significant white, radical, grassroots, working class movement since World War II. It has come in response to a union

that has grown old and unresponsive to its membership, a condition that exists to some degree in almost every industry. And the challenge does not come primarily from disillusioned union officials like Yablonski but from the rank and file workers who got tired of coughing out their lungs for low pay and minuscule benefits. Yablonski became the most visible leader because he had been well known in the union before the radical movement began. But the real movement started among the miners themselves

Last fall, in the heat of the campaign to oust Boyle, two of the original rank and file miners who started the Black Lung Movement which eventually ran a collision course with the union threw their support behind Yablonski. Eliju Wolford and Elmer Yocum stood before a roomful of young radical union organizers. They began by explaining why a pair of grizzled coal miners like themselves got involved in the election for president of the United Mine Workers.

Wolford, the first announced candidate for UMW president in last year's campaign, smiled and said he had withdrawn to support Yablonski because Yablonski had picked up every item in the platform Wolford was fighting for and was a more experienced man to boot.

Wolford, 38, and Yocum, in his fifties, have spent all their lives in the West Virginia coal fields. Their bodies bear proof of the need for miners to struggle. Wolford lost the tips of two fingers on his right hand a few years ago in a mine accident. Yocum is still recovering from having both arms broken in a cave-in a year ago.

Wolford and Yocum told of the disgust for Boyle's machine, a disgust that grew on them year after year. The machine is guarded against democratic reform and fixed against rank and file participation. Boyle upholds the mine owners in disputes with the workers, and grievances often end up with miners losing their jobs. The corruption and collaboration with management is so pervasive that it came as little surprise when the UMW was convicted under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act in August 1967 of lending large amounts of money to the West Kentucky Coal Co. to help it

gain a monopoly on TVA contracts

"Why, the coal operators could buy off these union officials at any time and usually did," recalls one old-timer who retired recently. "The union officials had control of the union and wanted to hold the offices so that they could hold power. They sold the miner down the river."

When West Virginia's miners attempted to force mine owners to meet safety standards adequate to combat black lung disease, grassroots organizers like Wolford and Yocum moved hard. But the union did little to get adequate laws passed and the first solid opposition to Boyle had to form. Miners and their friends among students and professional people launched an all-out campaign against black lung -- which culminated in a strike which spread like wildfire.

Almost all of West Virginia's coal miners were out, forcing the legislature back in session to pass a black lung law. The miners refused to relent until the governor signed the bill into law, and by that time the big steel companies, which are utterly dependent on a steady stream of coal, began worrying about whether they would have to curtail production.

The strike spread all over Appalachia before the bill was finally passed.

Wolford said some union locals got threatening letters telling workers to get back on the job or suffer the consequences. But the miners held out until the legislation passed. The Boyle faction then tried to claim the victory. But Boyle tripped up on national television when a reporter asked him how members of his union had successfully gone on strike while bucking the union leadership. "The sons of bitches got ahead of us this time," Boyle admitted.

Black lung legislation was the main issue of the strike so far as Wolford was concerned. Of fifteen thousand miners in West Virginia afflicted with black lung disease before the strike, only four were getting compensation.

But the black lung strike opened up dozens of new areas for miners unhappy with Boyle's leadership.

"The United Mine Workers isn't for miners, it's an organization to support the international union," Yocum complained, blaming Boyle for the corruption in the union's leadership. Officials at almost every level are appointed by Boyle or his assistants.

Both miners charged that even when Boyle negotiated a new contract with mine owners, the union had made so many concessions by the time the contract expired that all the workers' gains had been wiped out.

Another Boyle ploy that irked Wolford was the intentional scheduling of the 1968 UMW national convention in Denver so that rank and file miners, many of whom couldn't afford the long trip, wouldn't be able to attend. At least eight delegates who were miners, including Wolford, had to be sent home after passing out in the thin air; one delegate died.

When asked by a young worker when he had lost his faith in the union, Elijah Wolford replied: "After working in the mines six months." He pointed out that if you don't have a better education than you get in places run by mine owners and legislators who fit in their pockets, that's the only work you can get.

In the small company towns education is the worst in the state. In fact, Yocum exclaimed, there are more union men per capita in West Virginia than in any other state, yet most of its workers are among the poorest in the nation. But that's okay with the UMW.

Boyle's union is fighting hard to smash the grassroots activists. Boyle knows his most serious problem is not dissident union bureaucrats, but the men who sweat their lives out down in the mines and rise up clenching their fists -- natural-born organizers. These men, including Yocum and Wolford, have been threatened with the loss of retirement benefits.

How long Boyle can hold onto his power is hard to predict. After one recent cave-in Tony Boyle said on television that the mine that caved in was one of the safest. Wolford says that when he heard that he didn't go back to work for several days. Such blatant apologies for mine owners do

not sit well with the miners.

And the army of miners who have lost their union cards because they had the bad luck to wind up at unautomated mines are a formidable force always waiting to break loose. Since the summer of 1963 they've used the tactic of "roving pickets" to spark strikes all over Appalachia.

Miners who still held the cards that entitled them to medical and pension benefits at non-unionized mines were threatened with losing them because the mine operators employing the former UMW members refused to contribute to the union fund. When these men demanded that the union organize the mines that weren't paying, the union politely declined. So the men took their gripe to other miners. A roving picket travels from mine to mine carrying placards and shotgun leaflets demanding safety and justice, spends a few minutes outside the gate of each and moves along to the next. Miners at union mines, while denying they are on strike, usually honor the picket line that materializes briefly at midnight and shortly disappears. It's getting close to the point where the main function of the union is to combat the threat of an industry-wide strike based on the long-accumulated grievances of the men union officials claim to represent.

Yablonski made a pretty strange union official. He ran on a platform directly opposed to Boyle, proposing a strong education program and complete restructuring of the union, in addition to progressive safety legislation.

Boyle, meanwhile, had just approved a new retirement pension of \$35 a month for miners, and a new contract calling for the equivalent of a seven-day eight-hour-a-day workweek under which miners would be subject to discharge for taking off the time to go to church.

Is this 1970?

But now Joseph Yablonski is dead, evidently executed because of his reform leadership. It is uncertain who ordered his death. It is unlikely that the three men arrested in Cleveland three weeks after the murder will end that uncertainty. Just as it is unlikely that his death will end the

rank and file movement that pushed him to the fore.

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[The above article was spliced together by LNS out of the formidable work of Peggy Cronin and Alan Fisk of the Metro, an underground paper in Detroit, and a friend of LNS who prefers to remain anonymous, the better to snoop in Appalachia where the power of the coal barons is yet intact.]

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INDICT 19 IN BUFFALO ROTC ATTACK

BUFFALO, N.Y. (LNS) -- On Oct. 15, approximately 400 people left a Moratorium Day assembly at State Univ. of N.Y. at Buffalo's Norton Union and proceeded to smash the ROTC offices in Clark Gym, allegedly causing \$10,000 in damages. (A story on the action was in LNS packet #204.)

On Dec. 30, 1969, Buffalo's power structure, after conducting an intensive media campaign against the "Mad Vandals" who destroyed the ROTC offices, handed down an indictment against 19 people. The seven counts in the indictment include Burglary in the Third Degree, Criminal Mischief in the First Degree, Riot in the First Degree, Inciting to Riot, and two counts of Conspiracy. Those who were charged face a possible maximum sentence of 19 years.

The main reason that Buffalo's power structure chose this time to attack the 19 is that these people represent all phases of Buffalo's organizing activity: Critical University, Youth Collective Conspiracy (YCC), Newsreel, Women's Liberation, Press Collective, Ecology Action Group, Organization for Afro-American Awareness (OAAA), and SDS Labor Committee.

No trial date has been set. But the trial promises to be a massive confrontation, since, on a joint indictment, all 19 must be tried together.

The indictments are one more example of how Amerikan Justice really works, and its incurable racism. It's not surprising that the only defendant not released in his own recognizance, and facing a high bail when arraigned, was a black man, Leon Phipps. But the 19, in solidarity with revolutionary peoples throughout the world, will continue the fight to "bring the mother down."

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NO MAS PUERTORRIQUEÑOS A VIETNAM!

By Stephanie K. Oliver

LIBERATION News Service

SAN JUAN (LNS) -- The University of San Juan's Rio Piedras campus and the entire community here have been embroiled over the issue of the presence of ROTC on that campus since the beginning of the academic year. There is a dimension in the Puerto Rican anti-ROTC, anti-Vietnam struggle that is missing from its counterpart in the United States. That dimension -- whether Puerto Rico is to become the fifty-first state or an independent republic -- politicizes the struggle in a way that touches the self-understanding of each and every islander. "Either Yankees or Puerto Ricans," wrote Pedro Abizu Carpos, the father of the independence movement, describing the emerging radical split in consciousness among his people. The question of political identity is particularly acute when the issue is whether or not young Puerto Rican university students should be trained for officership in the U.S. armed forces.

Puerto Rican participation in the U.S. military enterprise is not new. Puerto Rico came under U.S. tutelage in 1898 as a result of the Spanish-American War. In 1917, Puerto Ricans were simultaneously made citizens and conscripted into the armed forces of World War I. The Sixty-fifth Infantry in World War II -- made up entirely of Puerto Ricans -- was honored for its valor during that war. Today, reportedly more Puerto Ricans than any other minority group -- including black Americans -- are serving in the armed forces.

The island itself has become a strategic stronghold. Thirteen percent of the island is occupied by the United States military. There are infantry training grounds in the central-eastern zone of the country and in the capital itself. U.S. naval stations are located in the east of the island (Roosevelt Roads), and on two smaller islands belonging to Puerto Rico, Vieques and Culebra. The latter two contain Polaris missiles and other nuclear armaments. Another military stronghold, Ramey Fields, in the west, is the site of

the Strategic Air Command and was the take-off point for the U.S. invasion of Santo Domingo in 1965. In addition, the tropical rain forest of El Yunque, situated fifty miles to the southeast of San Juan has been declared a U.S. Caribbean National Forest and is used to train Green Berets for Vietnam and counter-revolutionary activities in Latin America.

With stepped-up military use of Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans, it has become clearer to the independence-minded that their struggle must be carried out in relation to that issue. Until September 26, 1969, no Puerto Rican had been sentenced for refusing induction into the U.S. armed forces. On that date, Edwin Feliciano Grafals was sentenced by the U.S. federal court in San Juan. Two thousand students who had been demonstrating in Grafals' behalf returned to the Rio Piedras campus and surged toward the ROTC building. A group of around fifteen entered the building and caused heavy damage to property. Eleven students were suspended. ROTC drills were temporarily cancelled for fall term.

During the two months that followed, nearly a dozen demonstrations and marches were carried out by supporters and opponents of ROTC. By far the most dramatic event was a hunger strike staged by thirty-two students in the foyer of the university administration building on October 7. The strikers -- both men and women -- pledged that they would fast until the Academic Senate voted to remove the ROTC program from the campus. The twenty-eight-day-old hunger strike ended when the Academic Senate voted to recommend the discontinuation of ROTC to the Council of Higher Education. Upon hearing the news, thousands of students poured off the campus into the streets of Rio Piedras shouting "We Won" and singing La Borinquena and other nationalist tunes.

The day after the Senate's decision, a march to the university campus staged by ROTC supporters -- cadets, their parents, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Cuban exiles (there are 60,000 in Puerto Rico) and other "taxpayers" -- erupted into a rock fight and several attempted invasions of university property. Although the media placed blame on the

students, it is clear from eye-witness accounts collected by the Student Christian Movement of Puerto Rico that the pro-ROTC demonstrators arrived at the campus intent on violence, armed with molotov cocktails. Later that evening, the initial right-wing group was joined by others and moved on to the headquarters of the Pro-Independence Movement (MPI). Fires were started in the building where forty movement members were held captive by the crowds gathered outside. When Reverend Victor M. Rodriguez urged onlooking police to bring a stop to the vandalism, (several cars with Puerto Rican flag decals were also burned) he was told that the police had orders not to interfere and that he could "go on up and join them" if he was so worried about the defense of the 'independentistas.' Before the night was over and the movement people were granted asylum at the headquarters of the Civil Rights Commission, three 'independentistas' were shot and one policeman injured. The MPI offices were torn apart and early the next morning several policemen were seen going over the grounds outside picking up shells.

While uniformed police idly observed the violence of November 7-8, plainclothes police and neighborhood organizers of the New Progressive Party (the party in power) were identified among the rioters. In fact, there are many indications that the government has not played a neutral role in the whole ROTC controversy. Shortly before the meeting of the Council of Higher Education which was to vote on the ROTC matter, the Council's vacant seat was filled with a government man, loading the committee with statehood party people. The university recommendation was made on academic grounds: the Academic Senate saw no basis for continuing a program over which the university exercised no control. On the other hand, the government-infiltrated Council obviously concurred with the independence people in seeing the ROTC issue in its political context. Before the Council made its decision to reinstate ROTC, over-riding and apparently not even studying the Senate's research on the matter, Council Chairman Roberto Buso made a special visit to Washington, D.C. His visit underlines the fact that decisions about what happens on the island are made

in Washington and not San Juan; and supports the independence position that the islanders are under colonial, not democratic rule.

The present governor of Puerto Rico, Luis A. Ferre, took office in January, 1969. His party, the New Progressive Party (PNP) is controlled by the most powerful economic interests in the hands of the national bourgeoisie, the financial and construction industries. But his support came from sectors as incompatible as the industrial elite, the middle class and the urban slum dwellers -- all of whom sought a change from twenty-eight years of leadership under the Popular Democratic Party (PPD) and former Governor Luis Munoz Marin, the architect of the commonwealth status. With the election of Ferre, the reins of the island's government have been given for the first time to out and out advocates of the assimilation of Puerto Rico into the North American union. When Ferre proudly declared recently that Puerto Rico was "our fatherland" (patria) and the United States "our nation," few were fooled by his semantic double-talk. He and the economic interests which put him in power are determined to consolidate U.S. military and economic control over the island through making Puerto Rico the fifty-first state.

Some Puerto Rican families may be content to receive an American flag and a check for \$10,000 from the U.S. government when their father, son or husband has been killed in action in Vietnam. Others are not. The way in which the Ferre administration has chosen to deal with the ROTC issue indicates that those who are not content can expect even greater repression in the future.

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"I am a Southerner by ancestry, birth, training, inclination, belief and practice, I believe that segregation of the races is proper and the only practical and correct way of life in our states. I would not run as a fellow candidate, or as a fellow citizen, in the firm, vigorous belief in the principles of white supremacy, and I shall always be so governed."

-- G. Harold Carswell

Carswell said this in a speech to an American Legion meeting on Aug. 13, 1948. Carswell is Nixon's new nomination for Supreme Court Justice.

"A TLATELOLCO IN LECUMBERRI"
MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS MASSACRE
OF POLITICAL PRISONERS
LIBERATION News Service

MEXICO CITY (LNS) - During the second half of 1968 the Mexican oligarchy set forth on an unprecedented campaign of murder. The government's target was the student movement, more than five hundred young people were shot down on October 2 in Tlatelolco plaza during a protest of several hundred thousand against the suppression of constitutional rights.

Besides the murders and the hundreds of injuries produced by the brutal action of the Mexican "constitutional democracy," approximately two hundred people (mostly students and teachers) were imprisoned in the Lecumberri penitentiary in Mexico City.

Two of the political prisoners are now dead. One died from stab wounds, the other was shot. Their deaths came in the wake of a forty-day long hunger strike which was called to dramatize the fact that the prisoners had been held for more than a year without trial, to proclaim their innocence of the string of "crimes" attributed to them (things like "robbery" and "disrespect of authorities"), and to rally support among the Mexican people against the government repression.

The deaths of the two prisoners resulted from what an information bulletin published by the prisoners themselves called "a Tlatelolco in Lecumberri."

On New Year's Day, 1970, the families of many of the prisoners were visiting at Lecumberri. Ordinarily they remain with their relatives a short while beyond the 6 p.m. deadline. This time prison authorities ordered the relatives out of the cells immediately. They lingered behind a while. When they finally prepared to leave, the relatives discovered that they were locked into the hallways along the cell blocks where the political prisoners are kept.

They demanded to be let out to no avail. After an hour and a half of waiting they suddenly realized that the gates behind them had also been

locked, and that they were shut up in a walled-in hallway.

The relatives, mostly wives and children of the men prisoners shouted and rattled at the iron gates and the children, who had gone without food during the day - because of the hunger strike there is no food in the political prisoners' cell blocks - began to cry. The noise penetrated into the surrounding galleries, the prisoners soon realized that their relatives were being detained.

By nine o'clock the relatives were still there. The dim prison lights permitted the trapped women to see what was to happen.

Several of the political prisoners were moving down the locked gallery hallways to get a closer look at their now-emprisoned relatives. At just that time the women saw the subdirector of Lecumberri, Major Bernardo Palacios, open the locked gate of a nearby gallery in which civil prisoners are held - most of them drug addicts, some of them convicted murderers. As the prisoners left their cell blocks the women could see them armed with sticks, pipes and knives, running toward the political prisoners.

The political prisoners - including students, teachers, peasants and workers - shouted to the others that they had nothing against the civil prisoners, that they should not let themselves be used by the prison authorities.

The prisoners released by the jailers attacked anyway and the hunger-weakened politicals fled into an adjoining gallery. Then the prison guards opened up on the entire area, shooting down from roofs on the political prisoners, the civil prisoners and the relatives alike.

Bullets crisscrossed the hallways. One of them struck the political prisoner who was later to die. In the melee the released prisoners beat the politicals, looted their cells (burning books and valuable manuscripts, and removing the few amenities that make prison life almost bearable - cots and desks and writing materials which take hours and days of haggling with prison authorities to obtain).

After ten minutes of crossfire the visiting

relatives were hustled out of the jail by guards.

That night, with many of them injured - two gravely -- the political prisoners slept huddled together on the cold cement floor. Whatever cots or beds and covers they had were gone.

The director of the jail, General Andres Puentes, issued a statement blaming the attempted massacre of political prisoners on the "recalcitrant visitors" and admitted that fifteen of the political prisoners were in the prison hospital and that many others were still in their cells suffering from concussions and possible fractures.

A communique issued by the prisoners inside Lecumberri stated, "All the facts prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that we are dealing with a criminal provocation against the political prisoners with the end in mind of massacring us and presenting the deed as an 'incident'. The facts prove that an action of such magnitude could not have been realized solely under the aegis of the prison director. It is a terrorist political act against the prisoners, their families, the students and the masses in general, carried out by the government in response to the growing campaign for the freedom of all political prisoners that is developing both in this country and throughout the world."

The prisoners charge that Mexican newspapers allied with the political party of President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz have long engaged in a campaign of "calumny" and threats against the prisoners in order to soften the effect that a massacre of political prisoners would have on the general population.

Despite the government's preliminary propaganda campaign, the Mexican press paid very little attention to the bloody events at Lecumberri, and to the prisoners' hunger strike. The press also left out any mention of the week long series of protest demonstrations and strikes at the National University and the Polytechnico inside Lecumberri.

Mexico City is located about one mile above sea level and at that altitude the nights are very cold. On the night of New Year's Day the prisoners slept coverless on a bare floor, their bones beginning to stick out because of their hunger strike. One Mexican commented "The sad part is

that in the same fashion many Mexicans sleep daily, and this may have reminded the political prisoners how necessary their fight and that of all the Mexican people is."

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FEAR OF A BLOODBATH

by Tran Van Dinh
LIBERATION News Service

[Editor's note: Tran Van Dinh used to be the Saigon regime's Director General of Information, a member of its National Security Council, and its charge d'affaires in Washington. This article, which originally appeared in the New Republic (Dec. 6, 1969), makes it clear why Tran Van Dinh quit his job.]

The possibility of a "bloodbath" in South Vietnam if U.S. troops were to swiftly withdraw has been worrying both "hawks" and "doves." But the Vietnamese likely to be the most affected by a change of regime in Saigon, or by a Communist takeover -- the wealthy and powerful -- do not talk much about it: they have been getting ready ever since the Tet offensive of 1968, which brought the war into their cities and their air-conditioned living rooms. A quiet exodus began, mostly to France. An exit visa costs as much as \$5000, a "certificate of French citizenship" costs about \$2000; illegal border crossings into Cambodia cost anywhere from \$800 to \$4000.

Money has been deposited in European banks; a total of between \$1.5 and \$2 billion has left Vietnam this way. President Nguyen Van Thieu has found a home for his children in Rome (where his brother is ambassador) and his wife has just purchased a house in Europe. Of 1600 Vietnamese who are legally leaving this country each month, half do not return which means that approximately 10 000 have emigrated since the negotiations started in Paris.

Many more presumably emigrate illegally. Those who cannot afford or who do not wish to leave, have gone through a well planned process of accommodation with the "other side" an accommodation that reaches the highest echelons of the government. Huynh Van

Trong, special assistant to President Thieu, was arrested in July this year with 42 others on charges of having contacts with the Vietcong. One wonders who will be left among the prospective victims.

The here-and-now bloodbath is real, however. For the majority of Vietnamese poor peasants in the defoliated countryside and destitute workers in the city slums, it is what they have been witnessing a long time: the search and destroy missions, the 'free zone' strikes, the B-52 saturation bombings; the Phoenix operation (which from December 1967 to December 1968 killed 18,393 civilian Vietcong cadres); the Song My type of breakfast massacre in which an American infantry unit shot down some hundreds of men, women and children in a captured village. To talk about a future massacre against this present background is ironic to say the least.

Would the reprisal argument have carried much weight if, during the Civil War a European country had intervened on behalf of either the North or the South, and then refused to leave on the grounds that withdrawal would leave the people of the North (or the South) at the mercy of the aggressors?

We must examine two underlying myths: the first is that the "Orientals put little value on life and take life very lightly"; the second is that reprisals are the monopoly of the Communists whereas anti-Communists are less vengeful. The first is easily dispelled by a reading of Western history: the religious wars, the Inquisition, the lynchings, the World Wars, the American Indian and Civil Wars, Hitler's final settlement." Any-one who has spent time in Vietnam realizes that the peasant esteems life very highly. The Oriental is no more brutal, no more casual about death than is the Occidental. Since 1945 Vietnam has gone through a revolution and revolutions are always bloody, but the blood is on all hands. The French whom the U.S. helped to fight against the Viet Minh during the first Indochinese War murdered a large number of Vietnamese nationalists and Communists alike in both the North and the South. In November, 1945, French artillery, fire and air bombardment killed 6000 fleeing Vietnamese civilians at Haiphong.

In recent months Saigon has given wide publicity to "mass executions and mass graves" in Hue, digging up bodies for the press and photographers. Yet Colonel Ton That Kien, chief of Quang Ngai province where the March 16, 1968 massacre of Vietnamese women and children took place refused to dig up the bodies of the victims, saying that they "are old bodies. Why are the Hue bodies new and the Quang Ngai old, when they were buried at the same time? The 1968 Tet offensive took two victims in my own family: my younger brother and my nephew. They were both killed not by the Vietcong but by American bombings. They were buried in a temporary grave for the reason that Hue was under siege, nobody could get out of the area to buy a coffin for decent burial. When on the first day of attack, about 20 Vietcong entered Gia Hai (a precinct of 25,000 residents in Hue) in order to secure the area, they carried with them a list of those who were to be killed immediately as "enemies of the people." According to Le Ngan, director of Hue's special police, the list consisted of five names, all of those officers of special police.

If the reason for continuing the US military presence in South Vietnam is to prevent a bloodbath, then the logical thing to aim for, right now, is a broad-based Saigon regime that includes Buddhists, whose non-violent position has always been clear and consistent, the peace-minded generals such as Duong Van Minh or Tran Van Don. That would be a negotiating government. The Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime is not only an obstacle to negotiations, but polarizes the situation among non-Communist elements as well. Vietnamization which attempts to consolidate Thieu's regime simply increases the likelihood of reprisals.

Those who fear a Vietcong bloodbath ought to consider other possibilities too. What will happen for example to thousands of political prisoners among them Luong Dinh Dzu, the runner-up in the '96' elections and now condemned to five years at hard labor, if there is no

negotiated settlement? Judging from many threats directed against the neutralists and the peace-minded by the Saigon regime, they would be liquidated by Thieu and his friends the day those leaders decided to quit the country. Thieu has already launched a campaign against his political opponents, accusing them of being communists.

President Thieu and the US embassy in Saigon have claimed that the pacification program has been going extremely well, that the South Vietnamese government controls more than 80% of the population. If this were true, then over a million ARVN troops and US residual forces could stage a real bloodbath... against the Vietcong.

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CUBA, \$1 BUS FARE, NO
Liberation News Service

NEW YORK (LNS) --While New York City has raised its bus fare to 30¢ and Chicago is planning to up theirs to 50¢, the Havana guagua--pronounced "wawa", meaning a bus -- still costs a nickel, and in the coming year Habaneros will probably all ride for free.

The brand new New York Times Encyclopedic Almanac for 1970 thinks that the kind of bus service they have in Cuba is a good indicator of how well the Revolution is doing -- and they're right. The Times wants us to think that the Revolution is doing terribly, so they claim in their Almanac entry on Cuba that "it takes hours to catch a bus" -- and they're lying.

Suppose you live in an apartment in Old Havana, a residential district with old tenement-like buildings, and you want to go to La Rampa, the downtown area where the movie theaters, the big restaurants, the Habana Libre hotel, the major office buildings and the big ice cream parlor are. If you wait for fifteen minutes near the corner of calle Galiano and calle San Lazaro, buses on routes 23 30 32 67 and 82 will all pass by sometimes more than

one on each line. They all will take you to La Rampa, as well as to the Plaza de la Revolucion, the suburb of Marianao, the former upper class district of Vedado (now populated by thousands of scholarship students from all over Cuba) and much of the rest of Havana.

Suppose you want to take a trip to the beach by bus (as the Almanac points out, gasoline is rationed so if you have a car, you might well prefer to take a bus. The Almanac also suggests that even if they had enough gas, there's nothing for Cubans to do in Cuba anyway. Nothing to do, that is, if you don't dig beautiful beaches, concerts, folkloric ballet, movies from all over the world, visiting friends in other parts of Cuba, playing baseball... or doing extra agricultural work, which a lot of Cubans dig.). To get to the former luxury resorts once reserved for the rich and barred to black people, you take the 55 bus to Guanabo, or to Santa Maria. It does sometimes take an hour or more for the bus to come. Then you pay five centavos for the hour-long twenty mile drive through the countryside to the ocean.

Like New York and many other American cities, Havana has an "exact fare, no change" policy. The difference is that when you get on a Havana bus with a one peso bill and no change, the driver is likely to laugh and remind you "Next year, nobody will have to pay," and let you get on anyway.

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"GOV. REAGAN PUNISHES COMMUNITY,"

SAYS BERKELEY LEGAL SERVICE AIDE

BERKELEY, Cal. (LNS) -- Gov. Ronald Reagan has vetoed a request that VISTA volunteers be assigned to the Berkeley Neighborhood Legal Services Organization because, he explained, the workers would be used to "heighten community tensions rather than achieve constructive benefits."

Reagan's executive secretary said the governor objected to the "philosophy expressed in a resolution passed by the group calling for the release of Panther founder Huey Newton and amnesty for Eldridge Cleaver."

1 Army Barracks chairman of the group said the denial "punishes the community because he disagrees with our position."

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GI STATIONED IN KOREA ASSERTS

U.S. PROVOKES NORIIH

LIBERATION News Service

[Editor's Note: The following interview is with a member of the United States Army who served many years in Korea and who must remain anonymous.]

Q. When were you stationed in South Korea and what were your tasks?

A. I was in Korea for the first time from January of 1962 to January of 1964. During this time I was employed in several different ranks as a cryptographist and teletype operator in the First Corps Communications Center. My second tour, which was from June of 1964 to August of 1965, I worked in the Eight U.S. Army Communications Center at Seoul.

Q. What kind of things did you generally deal with?

A. Teletype traffic along with routine unclassified administrative traffic. This kind of thing was a good part of my work.

Q. Where did this traffic come from?

A. All over the world. A lot of the routine stuff comes from all over the world, mostly administrative stuff and operations orders and so forth. When I worked in I Corps a lot of this kind of thing came down from Eighth Army. When I worked in Eighth Army we had a command channel hooked up with the Pacific Commander and Chief Pacific and the U.S. Army/Pacific and this was tied in all over the Pacific. Many of the operations orders came directly from U.S. Army Pacific or directly from Department of the Army.

Q. Did you ever handle classified traffic?

A. Yes.

Q. How often?

A. Frequently.

Q. The other day you were describing a teleconference that took place in March 1965 regarding the commitment of South Korean troops to South Vietnam.

A. Well, there was a teleconference in March of 1965 in which I was pulled out of bed at 3 in the morning to engineer but that's not important. It was set up just when Hubert Humphrey had been trying to convince the South Koreans that they should send actual ground combat troops to South

Vietnam. The Koreans wouldn't give him a straight answer on the spot, they were looking for things they wanted before they would send troops. What happened was that the American Ambassador and the man in charge for the Commanding General -- Commander and Chief of the United Nations Command which was actually three separate commands combined into one was a four star general named House -- were delegated to conduct the negotiations with the Koreans for the troops. The Koreans, if they were going to send any kind of combat troops to Vietnam, first and foremost wanted more divisions to replace those on the [Korean] DMZ among other things. Well, as it turned out on this teleconference, the U.S. gave the Koreans everything they demanded.

Q. How do you know this?

A. Like I said, I was engineering the conference and I was typing up the items. I saw it on paper.

Q. Who else besides those you mentioned so far were on this teleconference?

A. There were Generals Wheeler and Johnson at the Pentagon and they were mainly talking with General House who was the senior delegate and president of the teleconference. Also involved was Admiral Sharp who was Commander in Chief of the Pacific.

They weren't satisfied with the way things were going and they wanted to know why. General House expressed the view that the Koreans were after too much. The Koreans were after five additional divisions and they wanted improved weapons. They wanted things like 175mm howitzers, self-propelled 155mm howitzers, and they wanted tactical missiles with nuclear warheads. The Koreans wanted all this hardware to protect themselves against an invasion from the north. They repeatedly asked for these things earlier and had not gotten them. The Americans were afraid that if they got this stuff, one morning they would wake up and find the South Korean army in North Korea. The U.S. [generals] didn't think this was a good idea. It wasn't in their interest. Nevertheless...

Q. What was the result of the conference?

A. The result of the conference was that the Koreans got everything they wanted. They got three additional divisions to replace the division that would be pulled off the DMZ and sent to Vietnam, they also got the plans to mobilize two more divisions out of the reserves for extended active duty, they got heavy artillery for several battalions plus the operational control of them. They also received Honest Johns and nuclear warheads to go with them. The only thing the Americans kept in the operations control of these nuclear warheads was the maintenance of them.

Q. Which means?

A. Nothing really. The maintenance was just a face saver. The Americans were thinking, well, without the maintenance they won't be able to use them unless we want them to. Well, this isn't the case with a nuclear weapon. The maintenance is important in the long run but how it is maintained has little influence on how it's used.

Q. So where did the decision come from to give the Koreans these weapons?

A. It came from Washington. The gist of the teleconference was to give these people basically what they wanted while making a few face saving reservations here and there.

Q. What was Wheeler's role?

A. Yeah, Wheeler was the man telling them what to do. Sharp was just sitting in sort of for information purposes so he would be kept in the know as to what was going on.

Q. And you were engineering this teleconference?

A. Yeah, I engineered from Seoul to Hawaii to Washington. And I operated and received the incoming items and sent them up and so forth. The original ones that were being transmitted from Seoul I prepared for transmission. So I got to see the whole thing.

Q. What is the difference between the new howitzers and the old ones the South Koreans had?

A. Well, the Koreans had light howitzers, 105s with a range of 10 miles and all their basic equipment was WW II vintage stuff. They also had a very

limited number of towed 155 howitzers and towed 8 inch howitzers which is about the same thing the U.S. Army in South Korea had. As a result of this deal all this stuff was replaced by self-propelled 155 mm howitzers and 175s. The South Koreans were also getting better small artillery and while they were using old M-1s, Browning Automatic rifles and WW II type small arms they also got out of this deal enough M-14s and this sort of stuff to equip their combat troops. The South Korean army works as sort of a NATO complex but under the UN command. There is however, nothing to stop them from attacking North Koreans except that they don't see an even chance of success.

Q. Are there many clashes on the DMZ?

A. Some, but only a few are on a large scale. These border intrusions go on constantly. The intention seems to be to create a very tense atmosphere on the DMZ which can be used in propaganda against the Reds. Well of course after the North Koreans have been provoked for awhile they are going to start playing the same game. The largest provocation I ever knew of was in the summer of 1963. It started with a team of North Koreans who were sent south. There were four of them.

Q. Were they in uniform?

A. No, they were not in uniform. I was working in the communications center when the teletype reports came in. The teletype reports said that they were carrying identification that identified them as being part of North Korean intelligence. The documents that were found on them, their bodies, indicated that their mission was to go to Seoul and organize an intelligence ring. Two of them were supposed to go to another city and do the same thing. They were equipped with WW II vintage Red Army issue pistols and so forth. And a lot of ammunition for it. And they had a hell of a lot of money -- something like several thousand dollars. That's what was reported in the teletype reports and you can never tell how much of it was true or if true you can never tell who pocketed how much more

money. You get the impression that there was only a few people who searched them and they could always cut out a chunk of money.

Q. What happened next?

A. Well the initial report claimed that these four guys had ambushed a jeep just south of the DMZ and a couple of Americans were wounded. It was near an observation post and this set off a big furor and the Americans went out beating the bush for these four guys. There was an entire division and a substantial part of a second engaged in this search. Then an infantry battalion from the First Cavalry Division went into North Korea across the DMZ with heavy weapons, automatic rifles, machine rifles, light mortars, this sort of thing.

They had artillery support ready if necessary to help them withdraw. They went pushing north and completely wiped out a North Korean army bivouac area, a company size bivouac, and then disappeared. I knew this because I was working in First Corps Communications center directing this strike. It came up from Seoul and we had to relay it on to the First Cavalry Division. We had a teletype circuit to them. It was very detailed as to when it was supposed to occur and how many people should go, how they were going to get there and how they were going to get back out. The artillery was moved up, two battalions of artillery up just south of the En Jin river, eight inch howitzers which had sufficient range to cover where this raid was going to take place. If they got into trouble they could call in artillery support to help them out. This was the largest one I saw. These things go on all the time.

Q. This was the Americans when when the South Koreans. How often do they raid north?

A. Any time they feel like it. They do it always at least some sort of raid at least once or twice a week. The South Koreans don't make large ones. Company size maybe but not much more frequency. The problem is that there are North Korean infiltrators in South. There's plenty of infiltrators in the opposite direction too. I mean a lot of them. I mean

senior delegate at the military armistice commission gets up and accuses his North Korean counterpart of attacking American troops or South Korean troops. He never says anything about their provocations ^{into the} north. Every time we received word of a North Korean raid, usually agents coming south, it was preceded by either an American or South Korean raid north.

The armistice states that no automatic weapons are allowed in the DMZ. The Americans have been carrying automatic weapons for a long time. The North Koreans do too. It's a matter of routine. Another very common thing is exchange of fire between northern and southern patrols. They both patrol the DMZ to see that no violations occur. Perhaps one night the people from the south see their northern counterpart on patrol they will open up on them with automatic weapons. This is a violation.

Q. Where did the orders for the large American raid come from?

A. The orders I saw came from Seoul. In this case it was listed that the originator and sender of the message was Commanding General, 8th US Army. Because this was an American raid, I would imagine that orders would have to come from somewhere higher up than 8th Army because that's not high enough command level to start such an operation.

Q. What about other American raids?

A. Most of the raids are quite a bit smaller. Sometimes I would see a report of petty-ass harassment from the American military standpoint and then an American force would push into the North Korean sector of the DMZ and ambush one of their patrols.

Q. What about American air raids?

A. There are no air raids. An air raid is a pretty big thing to pull off. You can make positive identification of the aircraft and too many people can see it. It's too spectacular. On the other hand, with infantry, if they get captured the army just says that they were kidnapped.

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***** PLEASE PAY YOUR JANUARY BILL *****

BOMBS AND BILLS

THE PEOPLE VS. P.G. & E.

OAKLAND, CAL. (LNS) -- Several small black-powder bombs triggered by a battery blew up two 12,000 volt transformer circuits at a Pacific Gas and Electric (P.G. & E.) substation in Oakland, California recently, two years after the first of the P.G. & E. bombings began. The blast knocked out power to 3600 homes and businesses for 90 minutes, but caused only material and no personal injuries.

Police and P.G. & E. investigators said physical evidence at the substation proved the blasts were sabotage, but they did not know who had planted the bombs.

Two years ago a series of bombings of P.G. & E. facilities took place in the Bay Area over a period of six to eight months. Authorities at that time speculated on a "mad bomber," someone who had a beef against P.G. & E., or "guerrillas getting in practice." The police and local media never attributed a political motive to the bombings. A young man in San Francisco used a stolen bulldozer to knock over some P.G. & E. towers near San Francisco as a protest against the war and the System, but authorities were quick to point out he was NOT responsible for the East Bay incidents. Later, an AWOL soldier picked up in Berkeley was blamed for the bombings on circumstantial evidence which was never proved. No one has ever been arrested and convicted for the bombings.

The recent blasts coincided with renewed interest in P.G. & E. on a number of fronts. The Berkeley Tribe recently published a report informing Berkeley people that the new "fiscal tax" on their P.G. & E. bills had been voted to pay the costs of the riot police who were brought into the area to suppress them. Federal taxes support the war in Vietnam. And while people were digesting this information, the State Public Utilities Commission announced it would approve a 3 1/2 % rate increase for P.G. & E. beginning at the end of January. The rate increase was to allow P.G. & E. investors a higher rate of return on their investment.

There were immediate protests of the rate hike, and not only from unfortunate P.G. & E. users. One of the members of the State Public Utilities Commission voted against the increase, calling it "highly inflationary and exceedingly generous." The increase, approved by a 4 to 1 vote by the Commission, will give the company \$16 million a year in additional revenue. The company had asked for \$21 million. The Commission staff had recommended an increase of \$9.8 million. The increase for residential users ranges up to 7.4%. It means an average San Francisco household will pay an extra 45¢ a month, which is on top of an additional 15¢ increase granted earlier this year. Costs for the homeowner and renter in the Bay Area have kept soaring, and this extra bite really hurts. Gas and electricity are constant necessities. Workers suffering under "wage freezes" and welfare recipients, to name just two cases, suffer especially under rate increases like this.

Those who objected to the rate increase (including the dissenting Commission member and former Deputy Attorney General & Commissioner William Bennet, said that the rate was too high on a number of counts. 1) It was allowing the company to recoup advertising and sales promotion expenses, which are unnecessary since gas is a necessity; 2, It unfairly requires consumers to pay the 10 per cent Federal surtax, which amounts to double taxation and is inflationary. The surtax is supposed to be deflationary, argue Bennet and others, and therefore P.G. & E. should not be allowed to pass it on to consumers.

Bennet's suggestion to consumers was to refuse to pay at least the ten percent surtax part of the bill, which he claimed was "passed on by the company to pay for the Vietnam war," and the rate increase, and to file properly disputed bills with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

PUC made it known that they would return such disputed bills to the customers and tell them to use legal channels in the courts if they objected to the surtax. Many people nevertheless followed Bennet's suggestion.

Someone apparently decided on more direct action.

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LIFE WITH 'CRAZIE' GEORGE

By Lee Merrick / RAI

LIBERATION News Service

[Editor's Note Three people, Jane Alpert, David Hughey, and Sam Melville are now awaiting trial on charges of conspiring to blow up government property in New York, the Whitehall St. Induction Center, the Federal Building at 26 Federal Plaza, and an army truck parked outside an armory in Manhattan. A fourth person charged in the conspiracy, Pat Swinton, has thus far managed to elude arrest.

All of these charges rest on the testimony of a paid informant for the FBI who was arrested near the army trucks and later released on his own recognizance ... George Demmerle

As the following article from the Rat makes clear there were many things about Demmerle's background and behavior that should have made it fairly easy to spot him as a likely agent. Testimony at a recent hearing in the trial indicated that Demmerle began working as a paid infiltrator of radical organizations in 1966, and at the time of the bombing arrest was getting \$250 a shot plus expenses for supplying the government with information about his new friends. Jane, Sam and David's arrests are the partial responsibility of all the people who were too innocent, foolish, lazy, shy or scared to recognize Demmerle for what he was and speak out.]

George Demmerle almost cried one night when he told the Crazies how he got busted in the Air Force. A slight infraction, nothing political, but he ended up getting bounced out, which broke his heart, he said.

He must have cared very deeply, or been grateful for not having served much time or he must have actually traded names of buddies for freedom.

After he got out he must have tried to patch up his shattered character again by becoming a super patriot perhaps not exactly on the payroll of the federal government, but certainly available when needed.

It is reported that he infiltrated a right-wing group two or three years ago when a plot of

theirs was unearthed to wreak violence upon the left.

George was first seen on the left in the Revolutionary Contingent meetings after the April 15, 1967 march to the U.N. Since that group was an amalgam of Vets, May Second refugees and various political groupings around the Free School of New York, no one knew which of the groups he had come from. Everyone assumed he was from some other group than their own.

In the Contingent, George was the first to call someone else a cop. The person in question was investigated by George and two others and cleared of suspicion.

Sometime later all the documents of the Revolutionary Contingent were published records of the old HUAC (now House Internal Security Subcommittee). There were even rumors of possible indictments and the good older movement radicals who had lent their names in support of the Contingent were harassed. Even after the Contingent broke down into factions and then dissolved forever, there were stories of its activities in various parts of the country.

After that George attended PL study groups in Brooklyn and worked on Hal Levin's campaign for Congress, also in Brooklyn. He was probably still living with his wife and son there during that time.

He then moved to First Street near First Avenue and became a hippy. He attended early Yippie meetings and participated in the Yip-In in Grand Central. He went to Chicago during the Convention with Veterans and Reservists to End the War in Vietnam, a group he had joined following the Yip-In.

His talent for playing roles, using make-up and wearing costumes made him a popular participant in post-Chicago, pre-Crazy actions, such as the New York Pegasus for President campaign. George, if you remember, was the mad anarchist with the little black bomb which he was always trying to throw at the Candidate. The debut of Pegasus in New York at the Gansevoort Pier was immortalized by FBI Lou Salzberg's photo of Red Squad informer Dick Lyons throwing George into the Hudson.

Later, after the Inauguration, when the Crazies

formed themselves he created his own crew of pigs and he became a familiar sight on 8th Street and 10th Avenue strutting in his lavender jeweled Nehru suit and dayglo pink helmet with two feather plumes on top like a Roman guard. He suddenly discussed politics

With all the Crastics he became involved in defending the Panthers and he himself got up several benefits for them. He then tried to get in tight with the Panther leaders and lawyers.

He attended the United Front conference in Oakland and later went to Woodstock where he manned the crazy table in the Movement City over 100 hours at a time.

When the Conspiracy trial opened in Chicago in late September George was hard at work setting up an abortive rally-benefit for the conspiracy in Battery Park.

At about the same time he became a member of the New York Young Patriots taking a leadership role. He quit after about a month taking several Young Patriots out with him.

In the last month since Cracy became the Prince of Peace sniffling around the movement like a marijuana hound searching for signs of potential violence.

He showed up in Chicago during the Weatherman action appearing at rather exclusive gatherings for Conspiracy workers talking about saving the Weathermen "from their own violence." He mumbled about certain plans "they had to shoot at the Chicago pigs in order to stampede them like cattle and bring down violence on themselves."

One participant in the Weatherman action describes the raid on the Secret Christian Church as happening "about ten minutes ago" George said. When the pigs broke into the church they rounded people up, searched them, forced them to strip and them of their "officer" uniforms (jackets and gas masks), lined them up against the wall, pointed toward the wall, pointed and then told them that they were going to get them. He finally left with about 15 men. After the 10th Street action the day before he was at the same gathering in the church. George was there.

as much as they could of the church heaving axes through doors and walls. There was no sanctuary in the church for the Weathermen once they were betrayed. Hours later the pigs returned and threw a search warrant through a hole in the wall.

Unemployed not even drawing unemployment compensation George flew several times to Chicago around the Weatherman action.

When he returned he whispered about explosives in Chicago, New Jersey, Queens and upper New York State. He disappeared for a few days early in November and returned well pleased with himself at a time when the FBI were creeping around everywhere "investigating" the bombings.

Maybe he was away visiting the Boston Weathermen who were subsequently rounded up for "conspiracy to murder" after two shots were allegedly fired November 8 through the downstairs window of a police precinct in Boston. When the Boston Weatherman commune was busted police found "writing on the walls, guns and pamphlets." It begins to sound like arrests in Cuba under Batista.

Most people found George somewhat unstable as a person. Some people trusted him more and included him in more or less illegal actions which sometimes resulted in minor arrests, but no violence.

George was the last of the Crazy showmen. He was still in costumes and make-up when the other Crastics were already talking about a serious response to the repression against the movement. George was still talking about parading a turkey around for New York City's mayoralty election day Nov. 4. But he never did it. It was right around that time that he disappeared for three or four days.

When he returned he had a short haircut and a new young old lady (an ex-Young Patriot), took to wearing suits and ties at odd times and acted most seriously.

Nowhere around that time he must have made contact with Sam Melville since the FBI set up their super surveillance on Nov. 12 the very day that George and Sam were picked up near the Armory on 16th Street.

George was near the truck and Sam was across the street when they were descended upon by 15 G-men with machine guns all pointed at Sam's head. Sam

said it all looked like all the FBI moves had come into one. At that very moment Jane Albert and David Hughey were hearing a ring at the door of Jane's upstairs apartment at 235 East 14th Street. Asked for a search warrant which they couldn't produce the FBI began breaking the door down with their shoulders. Jane and David were handcuffed and led away. Jane's two puppies were kicked back into the apartment when they tried to go out for a walk with her.

At the same time Pat's apartment downstairs was invaded and it was ascertained that she was absent. That didn't stop the pigs from searching, seizing and destroying the contents of the apartment as they also did at Jane's place. George knew that these four people were friends. He had attended meetings to set up a community apartment hunting service with all of them and others in Pat's apartment.

After the arrests George said lamely to David, "I must have been tailed." Later after a semi-secret bail hearing he was released in his own recognizance and identified as a police informer.

After his release his "old lady" got a call from him during which he is supposed to have said that he is being kept in a New York City jail at his request. He spun for her the incredible story that Sam's plan involved deliberate human casualties and that he had tipped the FBI "to prevent violence." He didn't explain why. If this were true he hadn't thought to argue with Sam or get any of the so-called "co-conspirators" to talk Sam out of the plan. He called the trucks "a first job, a training mission," but nobody can quite figure out whether he meant for Sam or the FBI.

There are many stories now about George and the Crazies - that all the crazies are cops, that George was the maximum leader and led all the chants and actions that George thought up at the crazy disruptions. Some one has confused the Crazies flashing of craze buttons at Finnegan and the Red Squad dicks during the Crazies first action - the jailbreak at Bellevue - with people flashing cop and other Red Squad flags during May Day festivities at the Central Park mall.

This is not as sure. - George is objectively a pig. He was always some kind of pig. He had a lot to do with it. It is depressing and disgusting that all of us people ever the movement were tainted by him and that new three loving brothers and sisters were blased by him. Jane, Dave and Sam need our help. Jane and David are out on bail. Sam still needs extraterritorial to breathe fresh air again.

The George in the movement must be prevented from destroying us. We will have to drop our stupid sectarian hang-ups and collectively protect our sisters by cleaning our houses, demanding good pillars of each other, watching for those who watch us and thinking and acting towards each other as brothers and sisters. We will see George Demme die again at the trial.

Contributions to Sam's bail and the defense of all of the defendants may be sent to

Bail Fund c/o Rat
Jail F 14th St
New York, N.Y. 10003

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GE EXECUTIVES MAN A DISMAL BOOTH

AT MASSIVE NATIONAL HOUSEWARES SHOW

CHICAGO, ILL. - In the 12th week of a nationwide strike General Electric's executives had to face the annual National Housewares show - where distributors often write out their orders - without the slightest ability to guarantee delivery dates on 1970 products to their potential buyers and old customers.

Business Week (Jan. 17) described the mood at the GE booth as "optimistic pessimism," implying that GE's top brass is squirming behind its toothpaste smile. The backlog of GE products is pretty near extinction and from here on in if the strikers hold out the company will take a beating.

Fittingly enough, the huge GE exhibit was dismaly dark - in solidarity with the workers at GE. Members of the local International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers refused to supply power to the GE display, leaving the demonstrators with toasters that would not toast, heaters that would not heat and lights that would not light.

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SAIGON OFFICIALS DROP BY ISRAEL FOR A QUICK LESSON IN WAR TECHNIQUE

TEL AVIV (ENS) - A seven-man delegation led by Senator Tran Van Don, a former general who is now a member of the Saigon regime's Senate Committee for National Security, arrived in Tel Aviv recently to study "technical aspects of the Israeli defense forces," Reuters reports.

Senator Don, a political opponent of President Nguyen Van Thieu about the same way that Nelson Rockefeller is a political opponent of President Nixon, reportedly stressed that the seven were on a purely "private" mission. He repeated that statement when he was asked whether the group had been invited by the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

What Don meant by the word "private" was not clear in the Reuters dispatch. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, almost alone among world leaders, expressed enthusiastic endorsement of President Nixon's Nov. 5 speech on Vietnam. Although Israel does not have diplomatic relations with South Vietnam, it appears that Mrs. Meir means what she said. This seemed quite clear from the Reuters dispatch.

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CONFERENCE ON REPRESSION

ANN ARBOR (ENS) - A conference on the subject of Repression in American Life will be held at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. Speakers and workshop leaders will include: David Hilliard, Black Panther chief of Staff; William Kunstler, defense attorney for the Conspiracy 8; John Froines or Jerry Rubin of the Conspiracy 8; and Kenneth Crockett, organizer for the Detroit Revolutionary Union Movement.

The opening session will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday Jan. 31 in Hill Auditorium, where a teach-in on the "scope and nature of current political and cultural repression" will be led by Hilliard, Kunstler and others. Workshops will follow. On Sunday, the session will begin at 1 p.m. in the Natural Science Auditorium. The topic will be "Responses to repression."

The conference is being organized by the Committee on Repression in American Life, a coalition of organizations.

mitted on Repression, an ad hoc independent group formed specifically to create such a conference.

For further information, contact Brian Spears 5722 South Quad, Ann Arbor Mich. Phone 313-764-8689

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GIs SET UP WAR CRIMES COMMISSION LAND IN STOCKADE

By SCFF (Southern Conference Educational Fund)

AUGUSTA, Ga. (ENS) - The Army has arrested four GIs stationed at Ft. Gordon who set up a "GI War Crimes Commission" to assemble and document evidence of atrocities by U.S. soldiers in Vietnam.

The four say they want to "arouse public opinion to the real nature of the war in Vietnam and spur people to action against the war machine."

Now in the Ft. Gordon stockade are: Pvt. Richard Horner, Pvt. Larry Czaplyski, Pvt. Timothy Johnson, and Pfc. Terry Kline.

They put out a leaflet announcing the formation of the voluntary commission on Jan. 12. The leaflet was distributed throughout Ft. Gordon and was mailed to GIs and underground papers at other military posts around the country.

The leaflet asks for GIs who have been in Vietnam to present to the commission evidence of atrocities that they might know or first-hand.

All four signers were questioned all week long by military intelligence. They were placed in custody on Jan. 16. They were charged with illegal distribution of leaflets and with having made a "disloyal statement."

Meanwhile, Horner said he had been called into his company orderly room a few days earlier and physically threatened by his sergeant. He said the sergeant told him if he saw anything like the leaflet on the bulletin board again he would "take off my uniform and beat the hell out of me." Horner said he added, "That's not a threat - it's a promise."

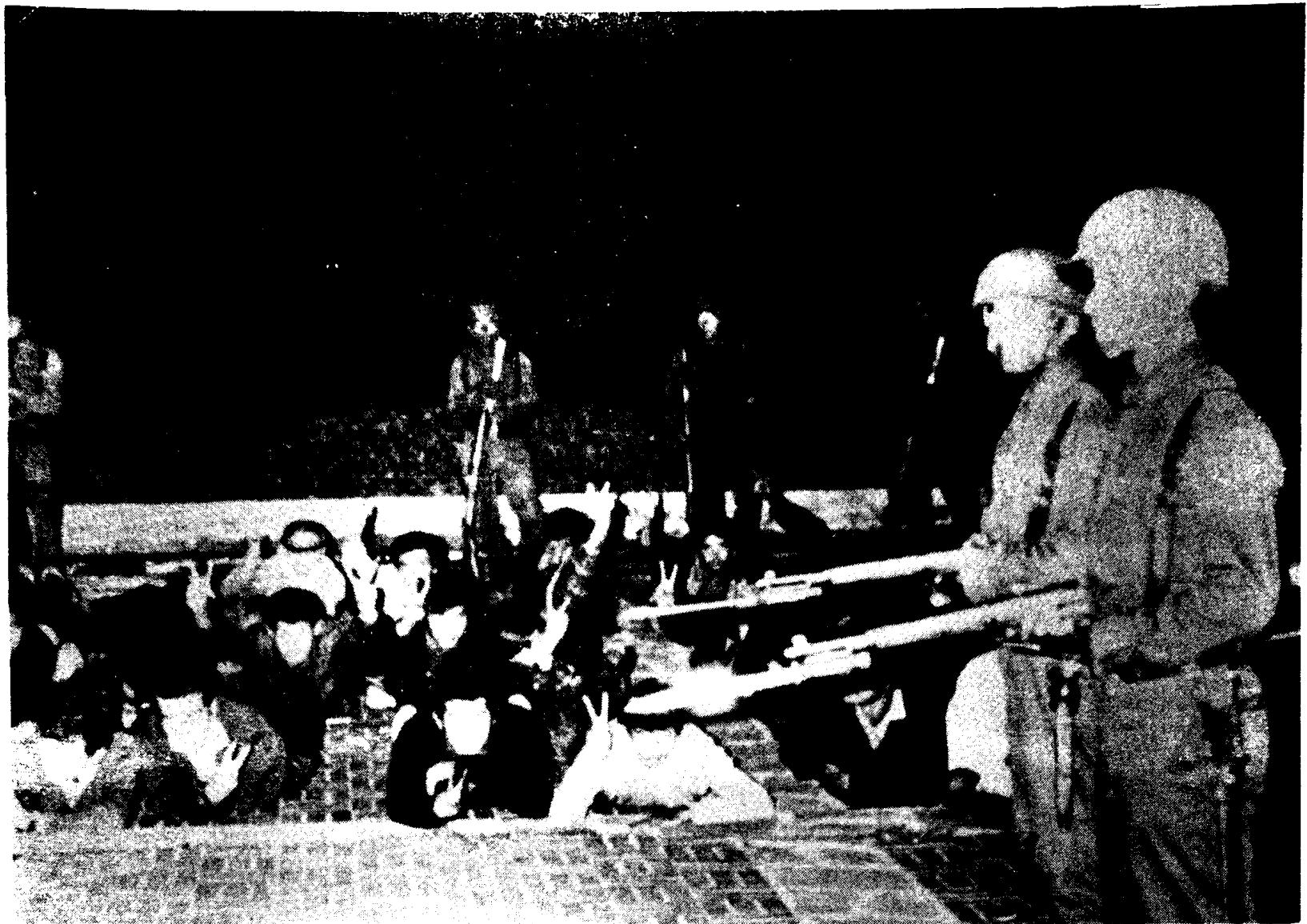
Horner told friends outside the Army that he and the other three had decided to form the commission after hearing returned Vietnam veterans at Gordon describing events that "make your blood run cold." For example, some told of "Vietnamese children being handed grenades set to go off."

"Many of these guys are terribly upset by what they saw -- and what some of them took part in over there," Horner said. "They feel that for the good of this country these things must be brought to light."

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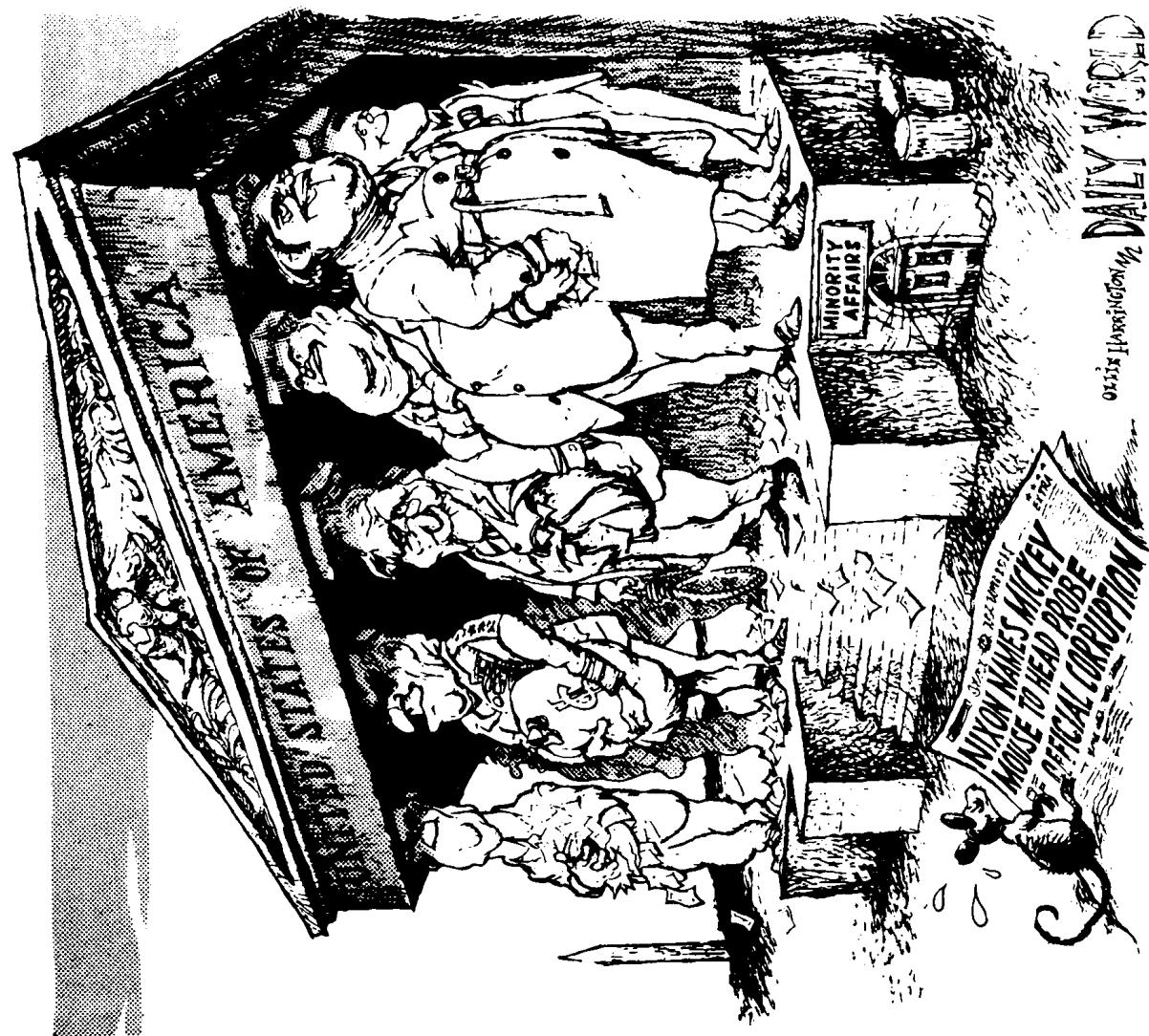


TOP: Mexican students flash V's when the university of Mexico was occupied by the Granaderos, an elite police corps in the fall of 1968.

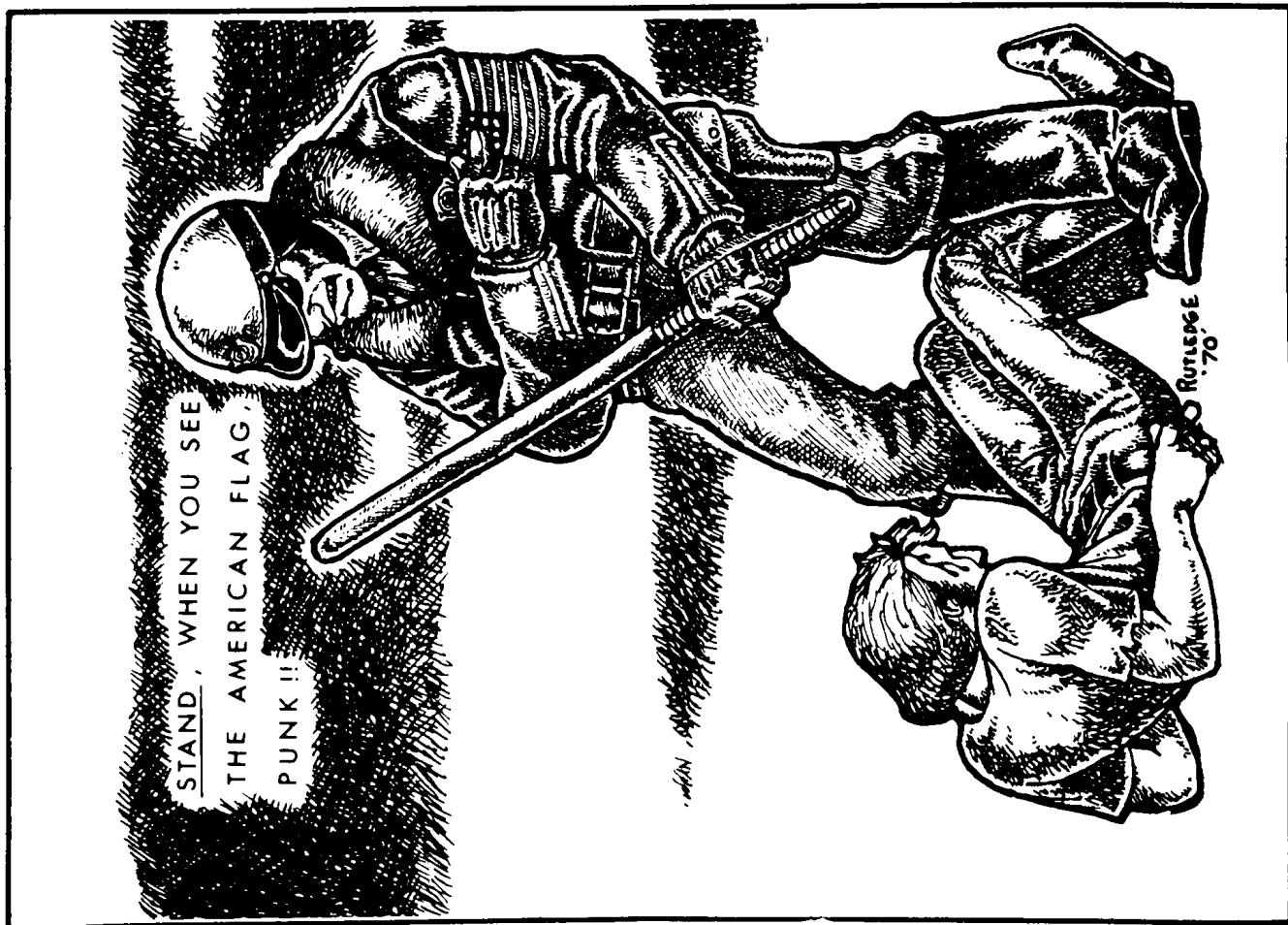
BOTTOM: Student prisoners in jail in Mexico

Both: Credit LNS

Story on Mexico page nine.



"And when the damned roof caves in who will they courtmartial? Sure, us mice, natchery!"



CARTOONS: left, credit LNS
right, Credit Daily World/LNS

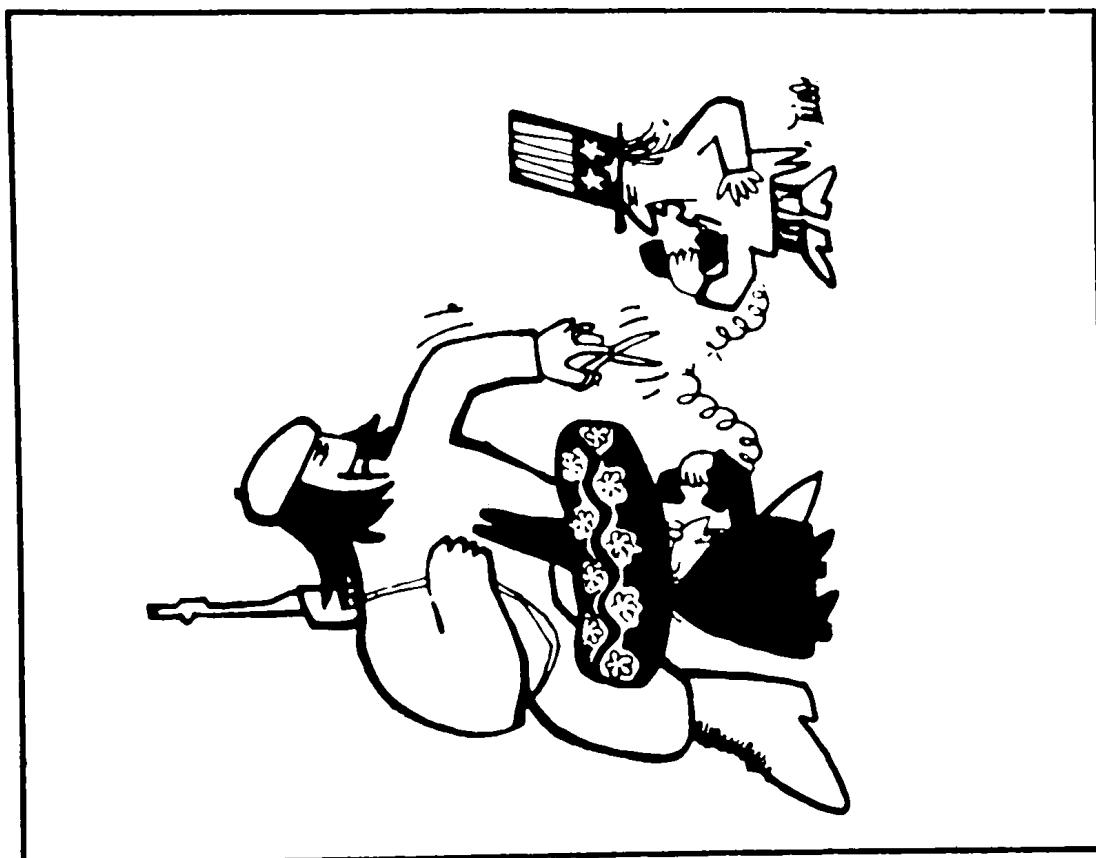


HUE, 1968: Vietnamese civilian killed by American artillery shell. Photo by an ex-Navy photographer who wishes to remain anonymous.

"THE VIETCONG IS A POWERFUL FORCE WHICH CANNOT BE DISLODGED FROM ITS CONSTITUENCY AS LONG AS THE CONSTITUENCY CONTINUES TO EXIST."

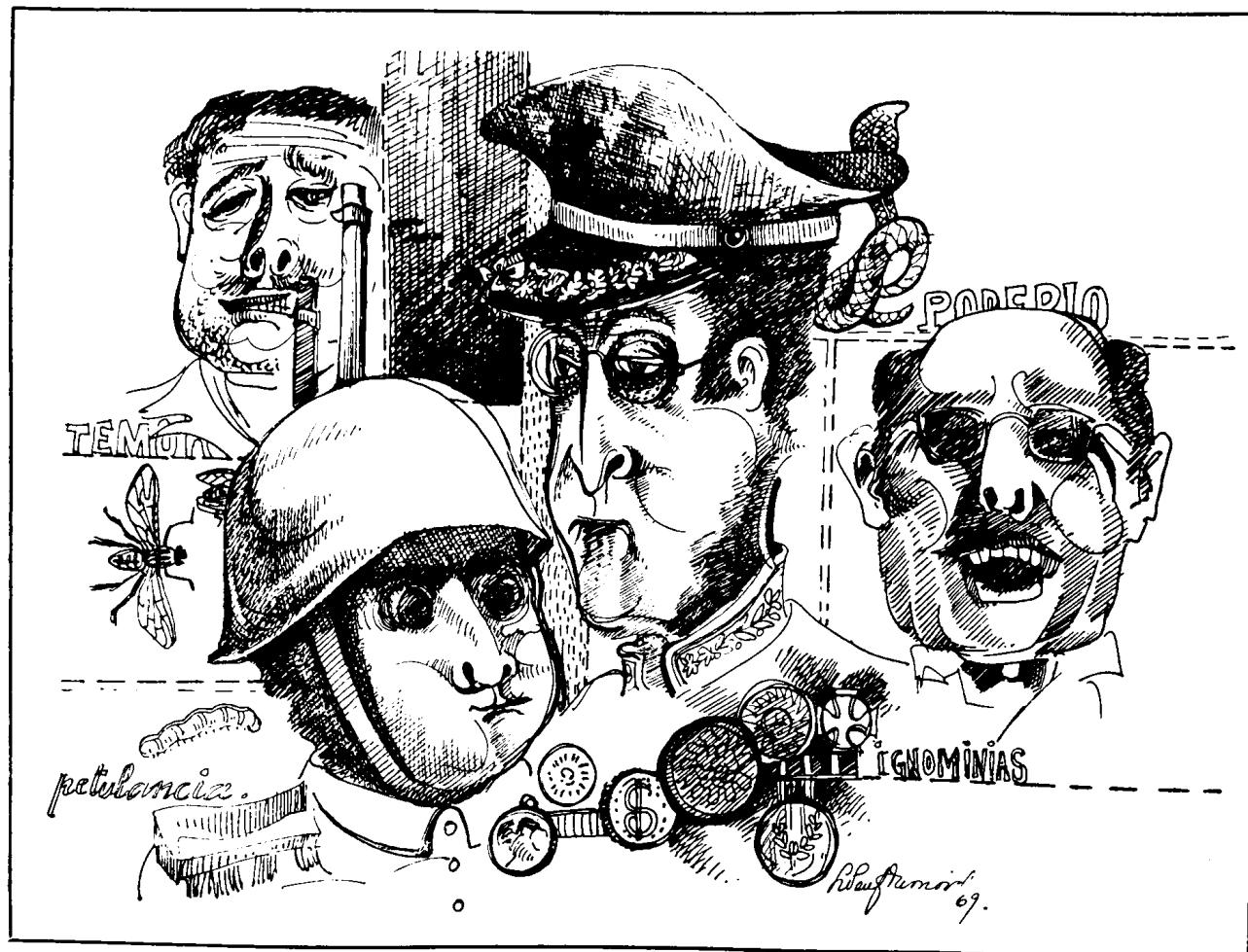
--Samuel Huntington, Chairman, State Department task force on Vietnam

Credit Herk/LNS This graphic can be used with story on page ten.



Left: George Demmerle. Story on page 17. Credit Steve Rose/LNS

Right. Credit Octae/LNS



En qué guerra sangrienta ganaron sus medallas?
 Qué campo de batalla les dio su petulancia?
 Contra quién, con cuáles argumentos se batieron?
 Quién les votó los increíbles privilegios que poseen?
 La guerra fue contra simples civiles temerosos
 Contra moscas, fantasmas y unicornios?
 En qué Instituto socrático adquirieron
 Sus rostros de sabios y probos profesores
 De todo un pueblo enfermo y tolerante?
 Qué secreto poder les dio los títulos?
 En qué fuentes divinas han bebido
 Su ecléctica cultura y poderío
 Que nos transforma de calmos ciudadanos
 En seres vomitantes por tantas ignominias?
 En qué guerra sangrienta ganaron esta patria?
 Y si así fuera (que todo lo han ganado
 En una cruel y larga guerra honesta)
 Por qué roban así, hunden así mi tierra
 Que pese a todo, es también NUESTRA
 De todos los CIVILES que no teniendo armas
 Seguimos soñandola sin cascós que la hieran.

In what bloody war did you win your medals?
 What battlefield gave you such arrogance?
 Against whom, with what arguments did you beat
 down your opponents?
 Who voted you the incredible privileges you possess?
 Or was your war against simple frightened civilians,
 Against flies, ghosts and unicorns?
 In what socratic institute did you acquire
 your looks of wisemen and righteous professors
 From the midst of a people so sick and forgiving?
 What secret power gave you those titles?
 From what divine fountains did you drink
 Your eclectic culture and power;
 And can you explain those acts of infamy
 That transform us from dulled citizens
 into enraged human beings?
 In what bloody war did you win this country?
 And if that's the way it was (that you did win it all
 In a long and cruel war)
 Why do you steal from it so, weigh down my land
 Already burdened by so much, it is also OURS
 It belongs to all the CIVILIANS without arms;
 Dreaming endlessly of a country without the helmets
 that disfigure it.

Poem by Ariel Canzani--Argentina
Drawing by Lesbia Vent Dumois

Credit Oclae/LNS